



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN  
**DEBBIE STABENOW**  
PRESS RELEASE

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**U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow Joins Busloads of Seniors in Calling for Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Legislation to Lower Soaring Prices**

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), coordinator of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force, was joined by hundreds of senior citizens, U.S. Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Hillary Clinton (D-NY), a number of her House colleagues and representatives from U.S. Action today as she called for legislation to lower soaring prescription drug prices.

“The seniors gathered here today have traveled hundreds of miles to send a message to Congress -- and I intend to listen,” said Stabenow. “When prescription drugs are unaffordable, they are also unavailable to those who need them most. And that is simply unacceptable. We must act now to lower prescription drug prices and create a comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare. Only when we have achieved both of these goals will we truly address the needs of American citizens.”

Busloads of senior citizens came to the Capitol from Maine, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland to urge Members of Congress to support legislation that will provide comprehensive prescription drug coverage so they can get off the buses they have been taking to Canada to purchase affordable medications. Many of the seniors in attendance participated in a “reverse bus trip” that began Tuesday in Maine and traveled throughout the Northeastern U.S., picking up seniors along the way and arriving in Washington this morning.

“Our seniors are facing a horrible choice: Do they buy food, pay their utility bills or get their medicine? No American should have to make that decision. That’s why, as the coordinator of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force, I am working hard on a multi-tiered approach that will help get skyrocketing drug prices under control,” said Stabenow.

In addition to modernizing Medicare to include prescription drug coverage, Senator Stabenow is working on a number of legislative proposals that will increase competition and lower prices.

Senator Stabenow has organized a number of prescription drug bus trips to take seniors from Michigan to Canada to purchase prescription drugs at prices as low as half of what they would pay in the United States. Last month, she kicked off the third such trip. On average, riders aboard the *Rx Express* buses saved an estimated \$1,340 apiece, based on one year’s projection of expected costs.